

administrative assistant in 1981. He served on the Baytown City Council throughout the 1980s, and was instrumental in securing funds for the West Main Bridge—now named, in his honor, the Perry Simmons Bridge. In 1995, he retired from Judge Lindsay's office, at the age of 75.

Mr. Simmons can look back with pride at his life's accomplishments. I applaud him for his efforts and service to the public and wish him well in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS H. FISHER—
DEDICATED COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good friend, Lew Fisher, a generous and dedicated community leader who will be greatly missed in Aston, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. As his family, friends and neighbors mourn the passing of Lew Fisher, I want to take a few moments to remember his work and difference he made in the community he served so faithfully for over 20 years.

Lew spent almost his entire life in Aston, he loved it there and spent 20 years giving his service as a Township Commissioner without reserve to the people he called his neighbors. He leaves behind an impressive list of accomplishments that most people only hope to achieve in their lifetime. Lew will be remembered for many different reasons, including his generosity to the Aston community. His inspirational leadership had a profound effect on helping people better their lives. Even with all of his work in public service and with community organizations, Lew endeared himself to many because of his generous spirit and wise counsel. On a personal note, I benefited tremendously from his advice during my years of public service. Whether it was a township concern or just a relaxed visit with an old friend, the Aston locals always knew they would find the support and guidance they were looking for in a chat with Lew. While in his presence you were immediately put at ease with his warm smile, his firm handshake, his gentle voice and his admirable character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many in the 7th Congressional District. I wish Lew's wife of 52 years, Florence and family, my heartfelt condolences and may they find comfort in knowing that the many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MELROSE,
NEW MEXICO

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the kickoff of centennial festivities in the town of Melrose, New

Mexico. The annual Old Timer's Festival on August 11th marks the beginning of an entire year devoted to celebrating the founding of this high-plains hamlet. In Melrose, the past will be commingled with the future as young and old stand together in tribute to one hundred years of perseverance and determination.

The town was originally called BrownHorn, after two local cattle ranchers. The Santa Fe Railway earmarked the area for its division switching point and requested that the name be changed to Melrose, purportedly after a town in Ohio. Soon after construction had started, the Melrose location was abandoned and the division switch was moved to a larger town nearby.

J.L. Downing, an early settler in the area, has been called the father of Melrose by some and is given much credit for the survival of this rural village. Downing is noted for encouraging early settlers by offering free water to residents until they could dig wells of their own; a feat of generosity that remains unrivalled to this date. The settlers stayed and the town continued despite the many challenges faced by early settlers.

Widespread availability of water led to agriculture which became a mainstay for Melrose residents who were now able to irrigate the arid land and produce life-sustaining crops. Once known as the broom-corn capital of New Mexico, Melrose stayed alive as enterprising folks opened businesses to service the area. The struggle for survival was exacerbated by severe winters, drought and fire but hard work and dedication prevailed as Melrose residents toughed it out and stayed.

In 1914, Melrose was reported to have had an Opera House, several businesses, a legendary girls' basketball team and a growing population. Some years later, however, WWI and the flu epidemic greatly depleted the town's population. Once again, residents of Melrose plowed through the hard times and in the 1930's organized a Chamber of Commerce for the betterment of the town and its people. In the WWII era, the population swelled to over 1500 from just a few hundred in 1940.

Today, the town encompasses 1.72 miles and averages 750 residents from all walks of life who engage in many career activities although ranching and farming remain at the heart of the Melrose economy. Located just 21 miles west of Cannon Air Force Base, the Melrose Bombing Range has been an integral part of testing and training operations. Many citizens of Melrose are employed by Cannon Air Force Base and local businesses benefit economically from it as well.

Melrose is also the birthplace of William Hanna, one-half of the legendary Hanna-Barbera, whose credits include cartoons such as, "Tom and Jerry, Yogi Bear and Huckleberry Hound." And the largest collection of Depression-era art in New Mexico can be viewed at the Melrose library.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the citizens of Melrose, New Mexico, as they reflect on the past and look toward the future of this unique rural community. The town of Melrose has endured despite many challenges and setbacks over the year through the determination and of residents through the ages. In the coming year, townspeople will pay tribute to one hundred years on the high plains of New Mexico and honor their forefathers whose actions by many accounts, led to the successful town we see today.

It is places such as Melrose that shaped this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community deserves our recognition.

Melrose has a proud past and a bright future.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF GREG HOLYFIELD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service and tremendous contributions that Greg Holyfield has made to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while serving as a member of my Washington, DC, staff.

Greg is leaving our Nation's capital to attend graduate school at the University of Arkansas, where he will be part of the inaugural class at the Clinton School of Public Service. My staff and I are sad to see him leave, but we are proud of him for earning a spot in this select class.

While working on Capitol Hill, Greg has proven himself to be an outstanding legislative assistant. His hard work and insight have helped me do my job better. And those same abilities have gained the respect of his colleagues.

Greg is a talented professional who always completes the task at hand, no matter how complicated or tedious. He has truly excelled in the fast-paced environment of Congress. Through it all, though, Greg always took the time to bestow a compliment or kind word to those around him.

The Clinton School will be fortunate to have you, Greg. Thank you for all your help, and good luck in all your future endeavors.

CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE NATION
OF BELIZE AS REPORTED
BY AMBASSADOR LISA SHOMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important and significant words of the Ambassador of Belize to the United States Her Excellency Lisa Shoman in her opinion editorial in today's edition of The Hill newspaper.

As Ambassador of Belize in Washington, Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interest of the people of Belize. She has brought to the attention of this Congress individually and collectively the importance of building, strengthening, and nurturing good relations between our two countries, not simply out of economic incentive, but for cultural and development purposes as well. Belize is truly privileged to have such an effective representative here in Washington, DC.

Belize admittedly is a small country in size, covering an area about the size of Massachusetts and with a population of only 275,000. It faces many of the challenges of small and developing nations as well as those pertinent to